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Sharing is caring

Two young visitors to Rotaryfest on Saturday decided to share toys and share the fun. See more photos on page 8. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*

AH eyes longevity for new landing on Kawagama Lake

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Times Staff

Kawagama Lake users will get a new-look launch at the Russell Landing site.

Chris Card, the township's parks, recreation, and trails manager, said staff and a hired consultant have reviewed the Russell Landing site on Kawagama Lake and have come up with some options for council's consideration.

Township staff presented council with two options on the cost for the Kawagama Lake Russell Landing rehabilitation project.

The first suggestion is to remove the existing landing and replace it with an improved structure.

Card told council when it met Aug. 15 that there are a several components to the work which he refers to as the baseline components.

There's the landing's timber crib dock and its stone retaining wall that can be replaced with cast in place concrete at an estimated cost of $75,000. That's an additional $35,000 more than a wood replacement

see RUSSELL page 2

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Taylor Abrahamse performs "Ain't Got No Cure For Love". */VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff*

Raising the flag

The Pride Flag Raising Ceremony to kick off Pride Week took place on Monday, Aug. 19 at the municipal office parking lot in Minden. Visit mindenpride.ca for a full list of this week's events. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Auntie Plums drags literacy into young minds

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

The first Drag Storytime event for Minden Pride occurred in 2019. The Minden Pride committee reached out to the Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) asking if they would be interested in hosting a Minden pride event.

"During the planning of this event, we found Auntie Plum," said Hillary Montgomery, programming and outreach coordinator for HCPL. "We have been collaborating with Minden Pride and Auntie Plum ever since."

The Drag Storytime events are free for the public to attend. Children of all ages are welcome to attend and the event is fun for the whole family.

"It is fundamental learning," said Montgomery. "It promotes literacy. Just like any storytime." "While promoting Minden Pride, she is reading stories about genuine people and good humans."

The HCPL is excited to take part in the Minden Pride celebrations this year.

"It is a great lesson for all of the kids to learn. It has been very welcomed," said Montgomery. "We have great attendance of all ages and we are lucky we have Minden Pride in our community."

For the Drag Storytime events, Auntie Plum typically reads two books, performs some songs and does activities with the kids. She then talks a little bit and does a question and answer period afterwards. Kids often ask her questions like how long it takes for her to get ready in the morning and where she shops for clothes.

"Overall it is a fun storytime experience. It gets kids excited about literacy and about reading," said Montgomery. " It is a fun storytime for all ages that promotes inclusivity and promotes being a good person. We hope lots of people show up and enjoy the fun."

There will be two Drag Storytime events for Minden Pride this year. On Tuesday, Aug. 20 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., Auntie Plum will be performing at the Minden Hills branch of the HCPL. On Thursday, Aug. 22 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Auntie Plum will be performing at the Haliburton branch of the HCPL.

Russel Landing costs a growing concern

from page 1

option. However, concrete would yield twice the anticipated lifespan of 75 years.

"The existing railing on the stone retaining wall doesn't meet current code requirements for a railing," he said, and added that there are other areas without railing that would need to be installed.

The addition of stairs or a sloping retaining wall extension for access at varying water depths at a loading/unloading area will cost an additional $10,000.

Card said the total estimated cost for that option with those inclusions could run about $159,600 for construction with about $2,000 for additional engineering. Along with a 15 per cent contingency, the price could be $185,540.

But the available budget for the project is $175,000.

Card said council wanted to know if it would be possible to put a gazebo on the timer crib dock. That could cost as much as $33,500.

"These are estimates," Card said. "We will know for sure what the cost is after we finish the design and go through the tender process."

The second option entails a comprehensive rehabilitation design. That includes details that could possibly be chosen to be used in a replacement if council chooses the first option.

Staff recommend that council pursue the first option with all its components and to proceed to design and tender.

Councillor Julia Shortreed said Kawagama Lake was at one time 90 per cent accessible by water and the gazebo was built then as a place for people to await boats shuttling them back and forth to their properties.

Then the south shore road was put in and there was no longer much need for the gazebo.

"So I can't see the point of putting the extra funds into that (gazebo)," she said.

"What about the other items?" Mayor Liz Danielsen said. "The stairs, the railings, and the gateway."

"Yes, ma'am," Shortreed said.

Coun. Lisa Barry supported including the options in the new landing, but she wondered where council will find the extra $10,000 needed for the work.

Given that the project outline includes a high level estimate, Card recommended council wait until the project is tendered and bids are received.

"Then if it is in fact over budget, we then review that," he said. "Maybe it's something that can't happen, depending on how much it is, or maybe it's something that council wants to choose to allocate some funds from reserves towards."

Danielsen hinted that the gazebo may be an unnecessary use of taxpayers' dollars.

"When you start thinking about adding something, you've got to think about long-term replacement and repair and all those additional costs associated with it," Danielsen said.

She suggested maybe community fundraising could cover the cost of the gazebo. Perhaps the lake association would have a hand in a gazebo at the landing.

"I think there are other opportunities for that," she said. "That's an additional expense that's maybe not necessary at this point in time."

She said the stair, railings, and the gateway are necessities.

Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux said the stairs will end up being a feature that users one day wouldn't be able to imagine what life was like before them.

"They're really, really helpful," Dailloux said.

"For canoes and kayaks and accessing boats at different (water) levels," Danielsen said.

Dailloux said she isn't comfortable replacing the retaining walls with concrete, despite its longer lifespan than timber, which is estimated to last about 35 years.

"The environment is changing," Dailloux said. "We've got climate change. Needs are changing and, if we're locking ourselves into a structure that's going to be there for 75 years, it could be that in 35 years life on the lake is going to be a little bit different. Maybe a replacement of timber would look a little different in 30 years."

"I suspect there that there will be a number of people who would prefer to have timber, even though from a long-term or engineering perspective timber is a softer material," Danielsen said. "If you're running boats up against it, it doesn't create the same level of damage (to boat hulls)."

Card said the main reason he recommends concrete retaining walls is its longevity.

"For less than half the cost, you're getting twice the lifespan," he said, and added that he did consider damage to boats cause by tying up at concrete.

"What I would want to do is still add a bumper along there" similar to what you'd find on docks, he said.

Consultants have said that concrete retaining walls would be required if one day the township would decide to pave the landing parking lot. Particularly since there's a municipal parking plan on the horizon.

"The injection of the parking plan, that kind of changes my mind a little bit," Dailloux said. "I think we've got to prepare for all potential eventualities and parking is a big issue. It's a big issue there."

Council decided to request proposals for a landing that would include concrete walls.

New zombie novel set in Haliburton County

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

Leanne Bowron moved her family from Hawkestone, Ontario to Haliburton around 20 years ago.

Moving to Haliburton is a decision that Bowron says likely saved her son Cody Hunt's life. Hunt was bullied as a kid due to his sexuality. Bowron describes her son as being more delicate and emotionally softer than the other boys his age. This lead him to be bullied and ridiculed by other kids.

Hunt started reading when he was four and quickly became a voracious reader, said Bowron.

"He always had ideas about books. He was always very imaginative and has always been very creative."

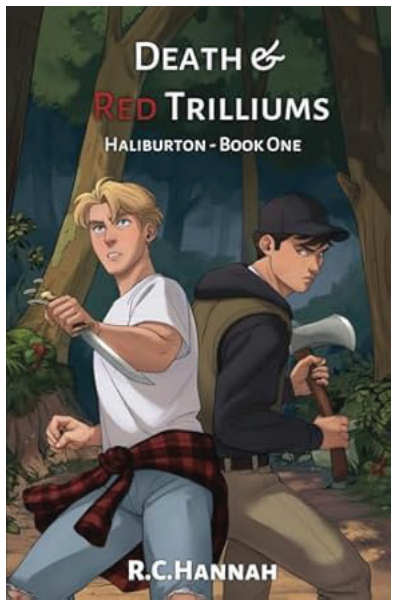
After moving to Haliburton, Hunt was welcomed with open arms. More than he ever was in Hawkestone. Describing Haliburton as more artsy and more accepting, Bowron says that the move to Haliburton was one of the best decisions she has made for her family.

"It just fit," said Bowron.

While attending high school in Haliburton, Hunt came out publicly.

"He had a boyfriend in high school," said Bowron. "He was openly gay. He had a better life in Haliburton than what he had in Hawkestone."

On May 27 of this year, Hunt published his first novel *Death & Red Trilliums: Haliburton.* It is the first book in a series of novels he hopes to continue. His book is written under the pen name R. C. Hannah. *Death & Red Trilliums* follows Cory Thomas. Cory lives in a post-apocalyptic Haliburton in a world ravaged by a zombie apocalypse. The protagonist is based on Hunt himself. Just like Hunt, Cory faces struggles growing up gay, has a troubled relationship with his father, and desires to move away from his small town. *Death & Red Trilliums* takes place in Haliburton and includes locations like Skyline Park, Harburn Road, and Dragonfly Diner, which was inspired by the Kosy Korner. In *Death & Red Trilliums*, Cory meets his high school bully, Jake Tannery, who is now a single dad. As they navigate the zombie riddled world together, Cory and Jake learn they can leave the past behind them and find love that they both deserve. Lee Mullen, the owner of Dragonfly Diner, is based on Hunt's mother Leanne Bowron. The next book in the series is rumored to take place in Minden.



"He used red trilliums because they are called the corpse flower and smell like death," said Bowron.

"It is somewhat auto-biographical. Except the zombie part," said Bowron with a laugh.

Bowron says writing the book was very therapeutic for Hunt.

After high school and a brief stint at the University of Ottawa, Hunt eventually moved to Missisassauga. Working from home, Bowron says that her son began writing *Death & Red Trilliums* about a year and a half ago. After completing the book, Hunt published the novel through Kindle Direct Publishing. Liam Mann, a friend of Hunt, did the artwork for the cover.

Cody Hunt aka R.C. Hannah will have a table at the Rainbow Street Festival on Aug. 25 as part of the programming for Minden Pride. Copies of *Death & Red Trilliums* will be available for purchase. The 2024 Rainbow Street Festival takes place on Water Street in Minden on Saturday and will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bowron and her family are immensely proud of Hunt for his achievement.

"Don't let being gay stop you from doing anything. Be inspired by whatever makes you happy," said Bowron.

According to Bowron, Hunt is currently working on a science fiction novel. R.C. Hannah's website is https://www.rchannah.com/ and copies of *Death & Red Trilliums* can be purchased from Amazon.

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 am unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- **August 29 – Regular Council Meeting**
- **September 12 – Regular Council Meeting**

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal at https://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx. Visit our website for more information.

UPCOMING HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT

Mark your calendars for the next HHW event taking place Saturday, August 24, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. Please ensure you have your valid waste disposal card.

FALL PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Adult and Youth fall program registration opened Monday, August 19, 2024, check out the fall offerings online at https://townshipofmindenhills.perfectmind.com/ or pick up a handout at SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

COUNCIL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SESSION

Take Notice there will be a Council Education and Training Session held Thursday, August 22, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. This tour is an educational opportunity to review key infrastructure and areas in Minden Hills and will not be used to advance the business or decision-making of Council.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- *Voice of Pride*, curated by Scott Michael Walling, features artwork by emerging and established local queer artists. The exhibit is on display at the MHCC (Welch Room) until August 31. A reception with the participating artists will take place on Tuesday, August 20 from 5-7 pm. All are welcome.
- The Agnes Jamieson Gallery is pleased to welcome back local artists Gary Blundell and Victoria Ward with their exhibit *Burner Herzog*. The Opening Reception with the Artists will take place on Saturday, August 24 from 1-3 pm. Everyone is welcome, refreshments will be served. The exhibit is on display until November 23.
- The Minden Hills Cultural Centre and Haliburton County Public Library welcome you to our free Friday Afternoon Movie! The Mitchells vs. the Machines (2021) will be shown in the Welch Room on August 23 at 1 PM. Snacks will be provided but feel free to bring your own. No registration required.
- The Minden Hills Museum, Heritage Village and Nature's Place are open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. Join us for daily tours and drop-in programs: Learn a new language every Wednesday morning at 11 am in the *Multilingual Schoolhouse*, try your hand at *Robo-Coding* on Thursday, August 22 at 11 am, and learn how to make ice cream the old-fashioned way at the *Friday Creamery* on Friday, August 23 at 2 pm. Admission is by donation.

For more information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763. Info is also available on our website.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently seeking energetic and highly motivated individuals for the following positions:

- Municipal Law Enforcement Officer
- Community Services Clerical Assistant
- Student Arena Attendants
- Student Recreation Attendants

Please visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca/careers/ for a complete list of available positions and how to apply.

PUBLIC MEETING - PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TOWNSHIP'S FEES AND CHARGES BY-LAW

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, September 12, 2024, during its Regular Council Meeting regarding Proposed changes to the Township's Fees and Charges By-law.

Proposed changes are included in the following Schedules and are also available on our website.

- Schedule A Classes of Permits and Fees for Building - Short-Term Rental Fees
- Schedule D Cultural Centre Programs and Facilities
- Schedule G Cemetery
- Schedule H Community Services Programs & Facilities
- Schedule I Environmental
- Schedule J Community Services Advertising

Members of the public wishing to **participate may attend in-person or join electronically** and make comment/speak at the Public Meeting regarding proposed changes to the Fees and Charges By-law.

Registration is required for electronic participants.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ROAD NAMING BY-LAW

Take Notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will consider a proposed Road Naming By-law at its August 29th, 2024, Regular Council meeting. The purpose is to provide for the naming and renaming of private roads accommodating the addition/revisions within the Township of Minden Hills.

Notice of proposed changes is pursuant to Section 48 of the Municipal Act 2001, as amended, and are as follows:

New Roads
- Finlander Lane
- Piper Glen Road
- Twin Bay Trail

Road Name Change
Currently known as "Clansman Drive", proposed name change "Big Orillia Lake Drive"

A copy of the proposed By-law is available at the Township Office or Township's website.

HHHSF Radiothon a huge success

Rick Lowes, Moose FM on air host stands behind the microphone this past Friday during last Thursday and Friday's Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation annual Radiothon. This year the Radiothon was raising funds for state-of-the-art mammography equipment for the County of Haliburton. All funds donated this year were double matched! At the end of the day on Friday the amount raised was $537,279.00! There will be a final total released in the next few days. Standing behind Rick Lowes from left to right – Lisa Brandeis HHHSF Administrative Associate, David Blodgett HHHSF Board Chair, Tayce Wakefield HHHSF Cabinet Chair, Roger Trull HHHSF Cabinet Vice Chair, and Melanie Klodt Wong HHHSF Executive Director. /DAVID ZILSTRA Staff

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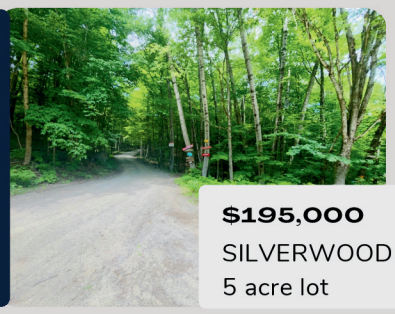
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Celebration of Life for Brent Devolin

The family and friends of Brent Devolin would like to invite members of the community to a celebration of life for Brent on Aug. 23 at the Minden Community Centre. There will be drinks, food, games, live music, and an opportunity to share the stories of Brent with his friends and family. The drop-in celebration runs from 3 until 10 p.m., and all are welcome to join.

Submitted

Brent Devolin is pictured with his granddaughter, AJ. /Submitted

GOT A NEWS TIP?
Let us know about it!
Call The Times MINDEN ONTARIO at 705-286-1288 or email thomas@haliburtonpress.com

HAVE golf tournament raises $25,000 for clean water

by **VIVIAN COLLINGS**
Times Staff

Jeff Bennett, Paul Heffer, Joan Pipher, and Cory Pilgrim stop for a team photo at the Ron Reid HAVE Charity Golf Tournament. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Clean water shouldn't be a luxury. It's a necessity for all.

Help a Village Effort (HAVE) knows the difference clean water can make in rural communities far from Haliburton County.

The not-for-profit organization has been providing wells in rural villages in India since 1982.

Their golf tournament at Gull River Golf Course on Thursday, Aug. 15 raised $25,000, enough for 25 new wells to be installed in rural villages in India.

"The average well costs about $2,500 to install and can accommodate 1,000 or more people. Our hearts swell when these wells go into communities where there are schools, and of course it has a big impact on the lives of women and girls who would have to walk long distances for water. They can now go to school. We're seeing those changes," said HAVE President Michele Coneybeare.

HAVE was founded when retired teacher Gerald Feltham traveled to India and took notice of the lack of clean drinking water in many small communities.

When he came back home to Haliburton, he recruited friends and colleagues which then became the first board members of HAVE.

Their theme: "One small village in one country helping a small village in another country."

Coneybeare was brought on 14 years ago by friend and long-time board member Debbie Wales.

They now have branches in both British Columbia and Newfoundland.

Coneybeare said they've heard countless success stories.

"A lot of communities suffer from diseases related to unsanitary drinking water. One woman's life completely changed when a well was installed 500 metres from her house. She can now spend her time cultivating her garden for extra money and support her family. Her daughters can now go to school," Coneybeare said.

Sixty four golfers played the nine-hole course while eight volunteers organized a putting competition, silent auction, and more at last Thursday's tournament, and lunch was provided by Mulligans.

The tournament itself is named after Ron Reid in his memory. Reid was a longtime chair of HAVE, and "was known for his kindheartedness and sunny disposition."

He was instrumental in acquiring a $500,000 CDIA grant for the organization.

HAVE is also recruiting new board members and seeking bigger corporate sponsorships.

For ways to help HAVE and get involved, visit www.helpavillageeffort.org.

Call for back to school photos

Send in a photo of your child/children heading back to school with their name and grade for the chance to have them featured in the *Haliburton Echo* or *Minden Times*. Email photos to thomas@haliburtonpress.com.

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In Other Words

Columns and Letters to the Editor

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"All of you have the opportunity to write a book, screenplay or podcast based on this case, and all my client asks for in return is a lousy acquittal."

Seasons change

BRAT SUMMER is approaching its end. As I drive to work, I can see the tips of the trees changing colour. Slowly, but surely, the seas of green over the hills of Minden are yellowing. Like a vaporous thought, the summer is ungraspable. The seasons are ever changing. Mother Nature reminds us to relish in the sun. To make use of the fleeting light before we are broadsided by the fall.

The fall.

The word is bittersweet on my tongue. I feel as though I have just started working with the *Minden Times*.

Has it really been eight months?

I remind myself that I started when snow was still falling. That is long gone. Like a memory.

THOMAS SMITH
Editor

"Wake Me Up When September Ends" will soon begin playing in my head. "Good luck, babe!" and "Pink Pony Club" have been stuck in the cobwebs of my brain this summer.

It seems like the summer is H-O-T-T-O-G-O and leave us already.

As the cool weather approaches, sweaters begin to sneak out from my closet. A coziness will surround me.

Like a blanket, songs from my childhood comfort me with nostalgia. Albums like *American Idiot* by Green Day, *Hybrid Theory* by Linkin Park, *The Sickness* by Disturbed, and songs like "Creep" by Radiohead all seem to slowly sneak their way on to my playlists.

Like everyone, I hold onto the nostalgic songs from my youth with an undying grasp.

These songs are now being played on 'classic' rock radio stations.

The word 'classic' appearing beside my favourite artists hits like a truck. Artists that I used to buy Big Shiny Tunes CDs for are suddenly considered 'vintage' and 'old school'.

For those of you who are nostalgic about music from your childhood, music from your angsty teenage years, or music that you simply cannot live without, Big Shiny Goons are performing the concert for you.

On Aug. 31, Big Shiny Goons will be performing your favorite rock songs from the 90s and 00s at the Rockcliffe location in Moore Falls at 8 p.m.. Big Shiny Goons are sure that they will be playing one of your favourites. With a set list featuring hit songs from bands like blink-182, Foo Fighters, Fall Out Boy, and more, this is a concert you cannot afford to miss. Their goal is to bring alternative rock, punk, and pop punk to Haliburton County and inject us with a hit of that sweet sweet nostalgia. The concert is free.

Make sure you have Voltaren and Robaxacet stocked at home, because if you are anything like me, your body isn't what it used to be "When You Were Young."

In Transition

RIGHT NOW, almost every outdoors person I know is in transition. That's right, we are slowly making that drastic change – the one from fishing mode to hunting mode. As a result, we will find ourselves dealing with a lot of angry people who are confused by this.

They don't mean to cause us grief. They just don't understand.

For instance, the other day, my wife inadvertently made a hurtful and insensitive comment after visiting my basement lair. She said, "Oh my goodness. You have way too much hunting and fishing gear! We should have a yard sale!"

In my heart of hearts, I know she didn't mean it. But it still hurt.

She is also, of course, completely wrong. There is still a lot more gear I need.

You would not suspect this if you visited my basement right now, however.

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

I'm not saying it is overfilled with precariously piled hunting and fishing gear, but I will say that when I take anyone through it, I ask that they do not make sudden loud noises.

That's just one reason why this is the most dangerous time for an angler and hunter.

Here's the main reason. In the next month or two, your partner, if you have one, will be seeing you walk in and out of the house or garage with stuff you snuck in, that they previously did not see. One day it might be fishing gear. The next day it might be hunting gear. Some days it will be both.

This will eventually lead to awkward questions like, "When did you get that boat?" Or "Who's ATV is this?" Or even, "Why is there a wall tent set up in the living room?"

Since honesty is the best policy, I'm going to be honest with you and tell you that it is better to lie about these things.

In fact, I have found it useful to make up an imaginary friend who is now in some far off and exotic place that no one will ever willingly visit to corroborate the story. It's also important that your friend has a normal name and a plausible backstory too.

Because I have done this, any time I get caught with an unapproved purchase, I just tell Jenn that I am holding it for my friend Jehoshaphat Emulsifier the Third, a world-renowned lion tamer, who recently moved to Sudbury.

This almost always changes the conversation. Because your spouse or partner will have no choice but to ask, "Why would anyone move to Sudbury?"

And, of course, there is never a short answer to this sort of question, for it often requires a story about how that person (in this case Jehoshaphat Emulsifier the Third) found themselves in the witness protection program in the first place. (Because he was a key witness in a fraud case against Grumbellina Shadowface, the bearded lady, who – get this – defrauded thousands by wearing a fake goatee.)

Again, plausibility is key.

The point is, if you don't have a good story, your spouse or partner will soon figure out that all this stuff is yours and immediately make you the star of an audition tape for the show *Hoarders*. And no one wants that – until perhaps the first week of the ice fishing season.

That's when you'll get the rest of your stuff out.

InOtherWords

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Stuckness

I'M PART of a team working with four post-graduate students who are exploring tiny houses as a potential solution to our housing dilemma. They're international students, so the task of finding a view of reality that accommodates their cultural perspectives, academic expectations, the incredibly complex world of housing and the additional complications of rurality is especially challenging. We gathered en groupe at a potential build site to help us get on the same page and move forward together with as much efficiency as possible.

Along with the students and the profs and the program administrators and community project partners were some of the municipal staff who share responsibility for some aspects of the long and twisting story of building housing, including those who have been involved in the early planning stage.

FAY MARTIN
Poke, Peel, Pair, Ponder

Whoever wrote the Old Testament story of the Tower of Babel was probably inspired by observing a similar gathering: there were many languages being spoken and the making of meaning came hard and lean. If we'd had to draft a press release, it would be brief: Making housing happen is complicated.

For a few years now, there has been a babel about making housing happen and remarkably little progress. It seems stuck. So much talk, so little action. (We could say the same thing about a few other big problems – dealing with climate change, inhumane and illegal wars, massive displacement of people, to name but a few – but we'll stick with housing for now.)

My guru, Paulo Freire, describes our process through life as a two-step dance – the rhythmic progression of acting on reflecting and reflecting on action – which I've written about before. (And I lie: Freire does not call this a two-step dance -- I named it that. If you want undigested Freire, I recommend *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, published about 1961, but being rediscovered recently.) I reference him again because this two-step construct suggests a handy tool for getting unstuck. And we need all the help we can get.

There are two kinds, and only two kinds, of stuckness. One is being stuck in action. The other is being stuck in reflection. The antidote for either is its antithesis. Let's unpack that a bit with respect to the housing challenge.

Being stuck in action is when you frenetically do this/do that/do the other thing hoping that something will get you to where you want to be, in this case creating the housing Canadians need. We gave the mandate for housing to the free market several decades ago and it has been frenetically building since then. But the thises and thats march to the same drummer, the obligation of the market to create profit, so the scope of what is envisioned is curtailed. The focus of the exercise is not the housing Canadians need but the housing that delivers profit. So we see single family homes increasingly large and upscale, condos increasingly small and shoddily built; urban centres growing, rural settlements dying; commute times expanding, productivity shrinking; economic inequality expanding, social unrest rising.

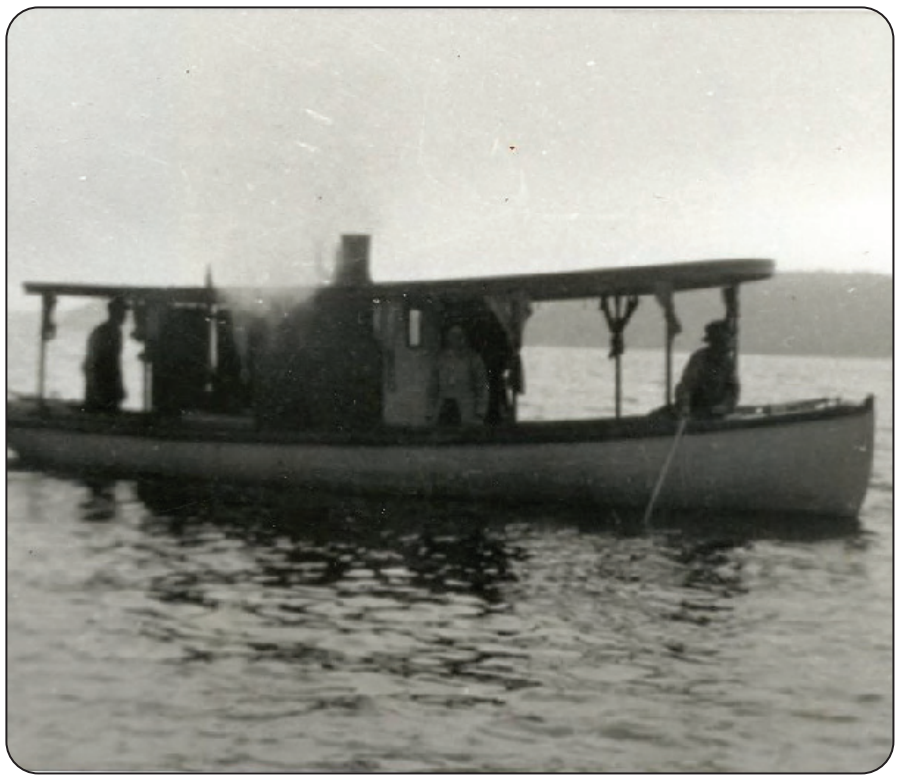
The market is stuck in action: to get unstuck requires it to stop and reflect on how and the extent to which its actions have moved it toward its purported goal of providing housing for Canadians. Or to fess up that that is not really its goal and that it has indeed been very effective at meeting its real goal of creating profit. In that case, reflection recommends it continue its current path apace, which seems to be largely what's happening.

Being stuck in reflection is when your brain goes round and round and cannot land on a choice. With respect to housing, that sounds a lot like the Tower of Babelness that our little group experienced locally, but writ much larger. There are the languages of zoning, bylaws, Official Plans, provincial legislation, building regulations, environmental concerns, archeological considerations, infrastructure availability and capacity, transportation, support services, fiduciary complexities, legal complications etc etc etc.

The antidote to being stuck in reflection is to take an action, any action, and see where that gets you. That seems to be the strategy of the provincial government – the burgeoning use of Minister's Zoning Orders which hoppity-skips over any other jurisdictional powers, the attempted take-over of the Greenbelt for, ironically, more of what the market has already produced, the 3-domiciles-by-right densification requirement (where there is municipal infrastructure). The federal government's recent move to require cities to adopt 4-plexes if it wants federal funding is a similar move. Where will these leaps into action get us? Too early to tell.

But leaping into action may also be an option increasingly adopted by developers and citizens who are indeed focused on creating the housing Canadians need. Who could blame them?

Minden Memories



Alf Langdon's boat. Alf Langdon was Minden's first lamplighter. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

letters to the editor

Devolin family thankful for support

To the Editor,

On behalf of the Devolin family we want to express our deep gratitude for the loving, supportive community of the Haliburton Highlands during the strange and unexpected illness and untimely death of Brent. You have helped us enormously in the loss of our son, husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle. Brent's death has left a big loss for us.

We are grateful for the wonderful tributes to Brent in our local newspapers that caught the attention of so many. Our family has been recipients of many loving, caring, thoughtful and practical gifts. We will not forget. Your outpouring of prayers and loving support have encouraged and strengthened us during this long vigil. We know that we can continue to count on this, as we face the future without Brent.

We are certain that some of you have had questions, as we still do about Brent's sudden illness, resulting in 5 weeks in a coma, and then his death with no conclusive medical diagnosis of what caused it. These words have come to our minds as they have to others:

There is an appointed time for everything; And a time for every event under heaven – a time to give birth and a time to die. (Ecclesiastes 2: 1-2)

Life is a mystery that only God truly understands. We choose to trust Him.

Yours appreciatively,

June and Doug Devolin

HCPL's Book of the Week

1581. Emilia Bassano has created some of the world's greatest dramatic masterpieces. But having her work performed on stage comes at great cost: by paying a man for the use of his name, she will write her own out of history.

In the present, playwright Melina Green has just finished a new work inspired by her ancestor Emilia Bassano. But even in modern day New York the playing field is still not level for women in theater. Would Melina—like Emilia—be willing to forfeit her credit as author, just for a chance to see her work performed?

Told in intertwining narratives, *By Any Other Name* by Jodi Picoult is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

Rain won't keep us away

Rotaryfest was a hit with families and visitors from all over on Aug. 17. Minnow races, music, games and food were some of the highlights that entertained one and all. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*

From riches to rags: escaping post-war Vietnam

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

Biography of a Woman: Journey to Freedom was released July 29 of this year. The novel is written by local author Susan Garrod-Schuster in collaboration with Giang-Chau Ghent. Chau was one of over 100,00 Vietnamese boat people, refugees that fled Vietnam at the end of the Vietnam War.

"I have known [Chau] since she came to Canada because she is married to my friend's brother," explained Schuster. "She came to Canada in 1979."

Susan Garrod-Schuster has had a family house at Redstone Lake for many years. Chau had met David, the brother of Schuster's friend at a Christmas party at her sponsor's home. A few years later, the pair were married.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Schuster had attended a book club with her friends. They were reading *Ru*, a novel by Kim Thúy. Chau was invited to share her experience of growing up in Vietnam. Chau shared stories about growing up in the royal palace under Hoàng Thi Cúc. Hoàng Thi Cúc, concubine of Emperor Khai Dinh. She was the mother of Bao Dai, who was the final emperor of the Nguyen dynasty.

After hearing Chau's story, Schuster could not get Chau's history out of her head.

"I asked her, would you be interested in ever writing your story?" said Schuster. Chau began to cry and said that she did want to write her story, but feared her English was not good enough to record it. Initially, Chau wanted to document her story for her children and grandchildren.

"As time went on and we developed her story, we felt it could appeal to a bigger audience," said Schuster. "As things evolved over time, it developed into an actual book."

Initially, the pair met over coffee and Schuster took handwritten notes as Chau dictated her history.

"As it evolved we began to Facetime each other and then we were meeting on Facetime. As she remembered an anecdote or a scene or anything that popped in her mind she would share it and I would write it down," said Schuster.

Chau would remember bits of her childhood and adventure to Canada sporadically. Sometimes she would remember things that happened on the boat, running through the emperor's gardens, or things her Mom had told her.

To write the novel, Schuster had to research Vietnam entirely. She researched the Vietnam War, politics, the geography, notable names, everything she needed to elucidate Chau's stories. The pair also engaged an editor to create a plotline for the novel and create some form of storyline. The first half of their novel, *Biography of a Woman: Journey to Freedom*, is exclusively about Vietnam history, the war, and her connections to the royal palace. The book follows Chau's life from growing up in a life of luxury, to fleeing to Canada. Chau now lives in Etobicoke and has 2 daughters and 4 grandkids. Chau's mother was raised by the empress herself, is 95 years old and lives near St. Catherines.

"I am an immigrant myself, I was born in England. I have the same kind of feelings around relocation and grief over homeland," said Schuster. "Some of those feelings that Chau and I connected on, leaving your culture behind, your country, and your friends."

Schuster says that she and Chau connected on both having children, grandchildren, studied Philosophy in school and pursued similar intellectual interests.

Working with Chau on the novel, Schuster says that she was able to be immersed in the culture, habits, and customs of the time period in Vietnam.

"It was a very laborious process because it is not fiction and I was working with her material," said Schuster. "The genre is narrative nonfiction. That means that the major parts of the events were true."

"I would sketch a chapter around her anecdote and then we would share it back and forth," said Schuster.

After completing the novel, the pair decided on publishing their book with Kindle Direct Publishing through Amazon.

"It is printed on demand so basically you can order one book or order 100 books," said Schuster.

On the week of Aug. 9, the book was #1 bestseller in Amazon's Vietnam War category. A category that Amazon automatically assigns books, and one that Schuster says is not entirely accurate.

"We are pretty excited. It was an interesting category. There are some elements in the book about the Vietnam War but it isn't a Vietnam War book," said Schuster. "The focus is on Chau's story. Going from riches to rags."

'The reception has been very exciting. There are a lot of feet on the ground and a lot of people have been asking for us to sign it," said Schuster.

"Anybody that feels like they are having a hard life can realize that somebody can go through an awful lot and still come out great," said Schuster.

"It is a story of faith. She is buddhist and held on to her faith and belief. Her faith throughout the journey helped her go through it," said Schuster

"It is resilience, it is strength. She is the second oldest of 11 children. Her, her brother and one of her sisters. She was the leader and she had to make incredible decisions along the way to save their lives."

Biography of a Woman: Journey to Freedom is available to be purchased from Master's Bookstore in Haliburton. Schuster is also currently organizing a book signing event for the fall. A discussion about the book will be airing on Canoe FM Wednesday at 11 a.m.

"Haliburton has always been a haven for artists of all genres," said Schuster. "It is nice to be able to feature your local community when you are having some form of success."

Community events sponsored by

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Outpost Scrabble and Coffee

When: Wednesday, Aug. 21 starting at 10:30 a.m.
Where: Red Cross Outpost Museum, 2314 Loop Rd, Wilberforce
Words used with a connection to the Outpost win an extra 10 points. Visit www.facebook.com/wilberforceoutpost for more information or contact Barb Schofield at 705-448-2598 or wilberforcebarb@yahoo.ca.

Old Times Afternoon Tea

When: Saturday, Aug 24, 1:15 - 4 p.m.
Where: Red Cross Outpost Museum, 2314 Loop Road, Wilberforce
The Wilberforce Heritage Guild is hosting a tea party. Enjoy old fashioned tea and sweets. Bring a friend and make new ones in a special place. Visit www.facebook.com/wilberforceoutpost or contact Barb Schofield at 705-448-2598 or wilberforcebarb@yahoo.ca

Gull Lake Rock the Dock in support of Minden Community Food Centre.

When: Sunday, Sept. 1 from 2 to 5 p.m..
Where: The host cottage is located across the Lake from Kilcoo Camp.
In conjunction with the food centre team we are raising money and taking food donations

Family Community Day

When: Saturday, Sept. 14,10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: Kinark Outdoor Centre 1766 Queens Line Road Minden, ON
This free outdoor event is open to all families and community members and will showcase the wide range of programming available for children and youth with complex needs and their families. Activities will be available throughout the day, including outdoor rock wall climbing, archery, canoeing, and pedal boating in the morning, followed by a delicious BBQ lunch on the main field. The afternoon will offer some time at the waterfront with activities like canoeing or pedal boarding, and tie dying – attendees can choose their own outdoor adventure!
Participants are asked to dress for the weather and to bring closed toed shoes and a water bottle. Pre-registration is required for this event. Please contact Elisha Weiss at elisha.weiss@kinark.on.ca or 705-320-0045 with any questions or to confirm your registration.

Haliburton County Historical Society Annual Pork Roast Dinner

When: Saturday, Sept. 21, 5:30 p.m.
Where: Stanhope Firefighters Hall, 1123 Northshore Road
$30 per person. For tickets call 705-754-0427

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Gull Gala, without the gowns

The third annual Gull River Gala was hosted at the Minden Whitewater Preserve on Saturday Aug. 17. The event raised funds to build a new playground. TIM YANO Special to the *Times* /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*

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Ontario Provincial Police constable Eric Nystedt worked out of the Minden detachment and was tragically killed on duty during the July long weekend of 1993. /Photo submitted

Charity golf tournament to commemorate OPP officer

by **VIVIAN COLLINGS**
Times Staff

Ontario Provincial Police constable Eric Nystedt was tragically killed on duty just over 31 years ago.

He was in his early 20s, the same age as many of the constables at the Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment today.

A charity golf tournament will be held in his name for the first time ever this September at Pinestone Resort.

"The idea came from all of the young officers in the detachment. It's amazing because a lot of them weren't even born yet when he passed away, but his life clearly has an impact on all of them. They wanted to create something in his memory that would give back to the community year after year," said retired OPP officer Mike Landry and Nystedt's former partner on the road.

Landry and Nystedt were the only officers on duty in the early morning hours of July 3, 1993 when Nystedt was killed by an intoxicated man.

The young constable had a zest for life and was big on sports.

"He would've absolutely loved to play in this tournament himself," said Landry.

The first-annual Eric Nystedt Memorial Charity Golf Tournament will take place on Thursday, Sept. 5.

It's hosted in partnership with the Haliburton Highlands OPP and Pinestone Resort.

Proceeds from the tournament will go towards the Ontario Special Olympics, Haliburton County Food and Heat Banks, Places for People, and Born Again Bargains.

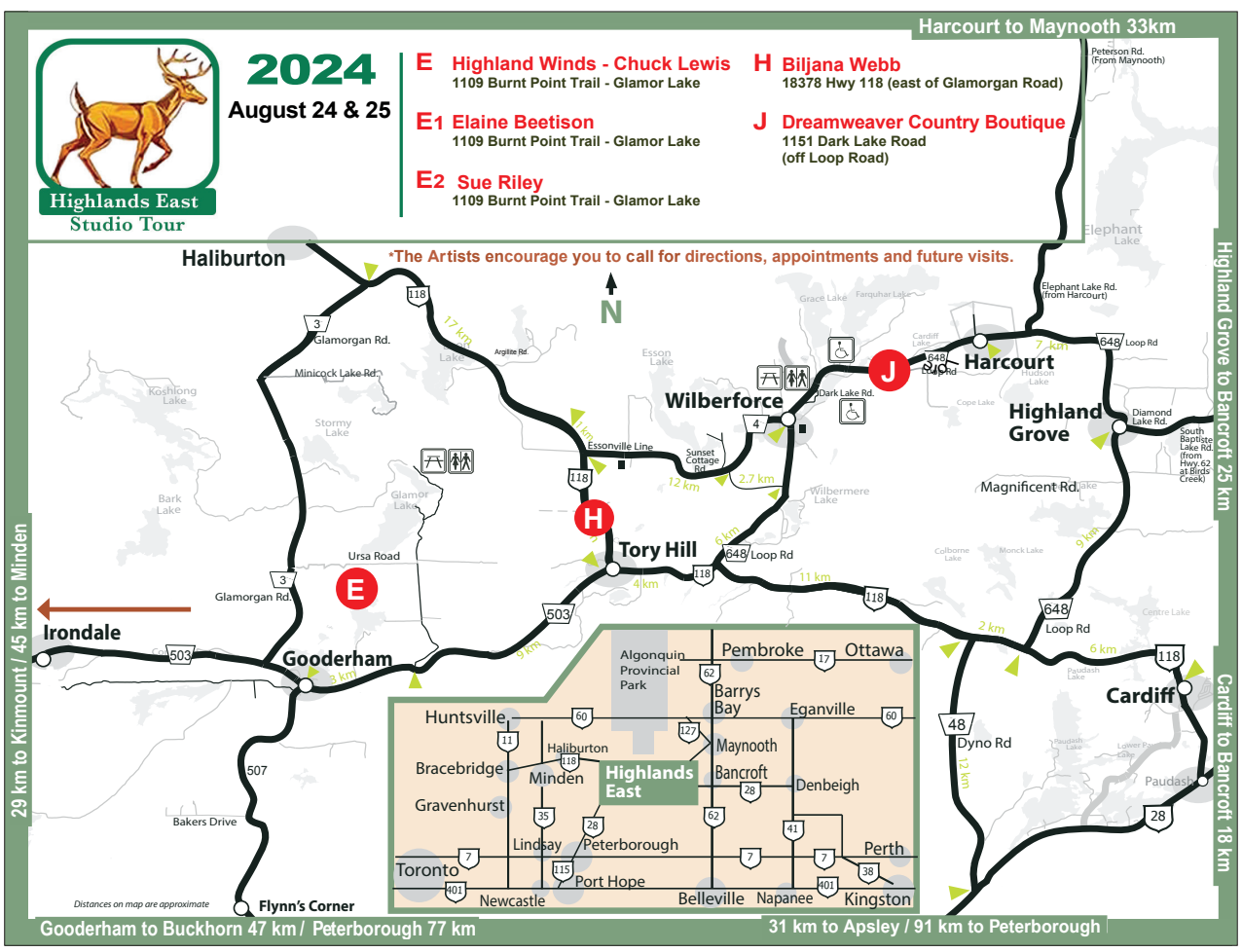
Two tee times will accommodate teams of four at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. playing best ball from a shotgun start.

Hole-in-one prizes include a Ford F-150, a Chevy Traverse, and free Godfather's Pizza for a year.

A buffet dinner and silent auction will end the day.

"We've been so pleased with how well the tournament has been received. Everyone's going to have such a great time," Landry said.

There are still a few spots left. To register, contact hhoppcharitygolf@yahoo.com.



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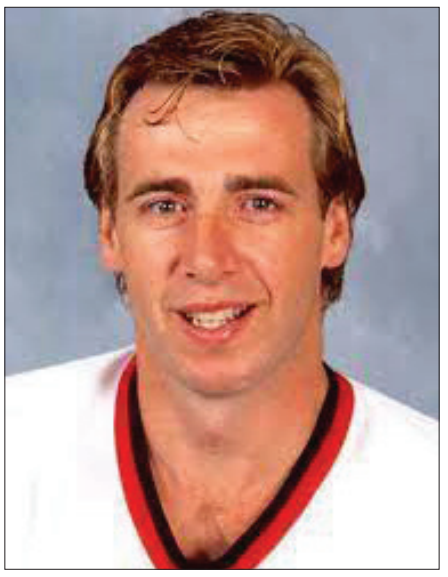
Friends Café with Bernie Nicholls



/Photo submitted

Hockey fans and library patrons alike should put Monday, September 9th on their calendars. The Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library are hosting a special event at the Minden Library, 176 Bobcaygeon Road. Bernie Nicholls will be there at 1 p.m. to have a conversation about his book called *From Floodlights to Bright Lights*. It is a candid collection of memories from his childhood in the village of West Guilford, and his journey to NHL stardom.

Like a lot of kids who find their refuge in sports, Bernie had more energy than he knew what to do with. "My parents might have thought I'd make a better juvenile delinquent than an NHL star," he admits in the book, recounting some comical childhood pranks. His parents, George and Marj Nicholls, raised five kids in a modest home with one bathroom and a TV that only got two channels. "It was like Mayberry," Bernie says. He fondly recalls practicing face-offs on the kitchen floor and skating under the floodlights of the outdoor rink his dad built. The family called it Tag Alder Gardens, and local kids still skate there every winter.

This book provides an authentic look into the world of professional athletes. It has some surprising stories about ups and downs behind the scenes. There were physical challenges from concussions to bone fractures. There were conflicts within the organization, unexpected trades, and the stress of constant travel. Bernie speaks honestly about the difficulties of balancing career expectations and family responsibilities.

The chapter called "Bernie and Wayne's Excellent Adventure," tells about his relationship with the Great One. Wayne Gretzky wrote the forward for this book and it speaks to their mutual respect as team members. Proceeds from book sales go to the Bernie Nicholls Foundation that helps underserved youth and their families. *From Floodlights to Bright Lights* will be available for purchase at the event. Admission is by donation and there will be refreshments provided by the Friends of the HCPL.

HH Chamber of Commerce accepting gala nominations

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce will announce award winners at the Awards Gala on Oct. 25.

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that nominations are now open for the 16th Annual Business and Community Achievement Awards!

The Chamber is committed to recognizing and supporting strong organizations within our community. As with every other year, we are excited to see this year's nominations and learn more about the stories behind them," said Amanda Conn, Executive Director of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce. Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce Board President Mark Bell added, "We have so many excellent businesses, impactful not-for-profits and amazing individuals in the county to recognize; let's make sure they all get the nominations they deserve." Since last year's awards, the Chamber has reviewed and updated the award categories and our processes. The result was the addition of some new categories such as Established Business of the Year, Retail Business of the Year and Professional Services Business of the Year. We have also redefined a number of categories.

This year, the Chamber is launching a new solution to facilitate Express Nominations. Through the Awardify Platform, members of the public and Chamber Members will be able to nominate exceptional businesses and individuals quickly. The nominee will then be able to supplement the nomination with additional information, and the platform will manage our anonymous judging process. To make a nomination or to learn more about the new process, visit haliburtonawards.com or use the homepage link on our website, haliburtonchamber.com

This year, the Chamber will be accepting nominations in 14 different categories. These categories are:

- Business Woman of The Year
- Customer Service Excellence - Business
- Customer Service Excellence - Employee
- Employer of the Year
- Established Business of the Year
- Highlander of the Year
- Individual Leadership Business Achievement
- Industry & Skilled Trades of the Year
- New Business of the Year
- Not-for-Profit of the Year
- Professional Service Business of the Year
- Retail Business of the Year
- Tourism & Hospitality Business of the Year
- Young Professional of the Year

To learn more about each award and to nominate a business or individual, please visit haliburtonawards.com or haliburtonchamber.com.

Nominations close at 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 27. Nominees will then have till Oct. 3 to review their nominations and add supplementary information.

Winners will be announced at this year's Gala on Oct. 25, 2024. This premier event will celebrate excellence in our community and conclude Small Business Week in Haliburton County. Tickets for the Gala will go on sale Sept. 1, 2024.

For more information, please contact:

Amanda Conn, Executive Director Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce ed@haliburtonchamber.com 705-457-4700

About the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business in #MyHaliburtonHighlands. The Chamber is committed to strengthening business and community through its leadership through advocacy, networking, participation, education, and services. As a member-based business advocacy organization, we are dedicated to providing a strong voice in support of our community's economic vitality.

www.haliburtonchamber.com

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9								
	5				1			
				4	5			
		2		9		4	1	
3							7	
	6		3				8	1
8		9			7			
		7	2			6		9

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Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 15

The crowd was plentiful, the beer flowed like water, and music was heard all throughout the night. /Submitted

Cheers to 10 Years and counting

[Boshkung Brewing] had an incredible time celebrating this milestone with all of you, and it's your unwavering support that allows us to continue doing what we love! A heartfelt thank you to Minden Hills Township (Township.Minden.Hills) for making the road closure possible, to our sponsors for donating the fencing, tables and stage, to our amazing community for always being there for us, to our family and friends for standing by our side, and a HUGE thank you to our dedicated staff who give 100% every single shift—your hard work and passion are the backbone of our success.

Boshkung Brewing asks that if you have any photos or videos to share please send them to mathew@boshkungbrewing.com

Their charity taps were flowing for some fantastic causes, and they're thrilled to announce the following donations:

- United Way (@UWCKL): $250
- My Gut Feeling (MyGutFeeling1.StomachCancerFoundationofCanada): $150
- Teen Challenge (@teenchallenge): $150

Thank you to everyone who enjoyed one of these beers this weekend and contributed to these great causes!

And last but not least, congratulations to Emily Armstrong, the lucky winner of our Matco Bumpboxx Cornhole set!

Here's to many more years of great beer, great community, and great times together!

Submitted

Boshkung Brewing celebrated their 10th anniversary Saturday Aug. 10th. Photo by Brad Brown

Township of Algonquin Highlands

NOTICE

COUNCIL TOUR OF MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE

TAKE NOTICE members of Council will be participating in a tour, for educational purposes, of municipal infrastructure located in the Township of Algonquin Highlands on Thursday, August 29th, commencing at 9:00 AM.

The tour will not be used for any decision making of Council or to advance the business of the Township.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Sarah Hutson
Deputy Clerk
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
T: 705-489-2379 Ext. 329
E:shutson@algonquinhighlands.ca

Dated August 19, 2024.

Township of Algonquin Highlands

NOTICE
Maple Lake Cemetery
St. Peters Cemetery
St. Stephens Cemetery
Zion Cemetery

The Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands is submitting a By-law, to the Registrar of the Funeral, Burial, and Cremation Services Act, 2002, that will repeal and replace By-law 2022-68 being a By-law to regulate cemeteries in the Township of Algonquin Highlands.

Any interested parties may contact Sarah Hutson, Deputy Clerk, 705-489-2379 ext. 329 or email shutson@algonquinhighlands.ca for more information, or to receive a copy of the proposed By-law. The By-law may be reviewed or copied at the Township's Administration Office at 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands.

The proposed By-law will also be available on the Municipal website at https://www.algonquinhighlands.ca/our-community/cemeteries/

The By-law is subject to the approval of the Registrar, Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002. Telephone: Bereavement Authority of Ontario, 647-483-2645 or 1-844-493-6356

Posted August 7, 2024

Township of Algonquin Highlands

NOTICE
Proposed Road Naming By-Law

TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Section 48 of the Municipal Act 2001, S.O., 2001, c.25, as amended, the Council of the Township of Algonquin Highlands at its Regular Meeting to be held on **Thursday, September 5, 2024** will consider a by-law to provide for the naming and renaming of all public and private roads for the purpose of accommodating the addition of private road names within the Township of Algonquin Highlands as follows:

Additions: Minden Point Trail
Bass Lane

Additional information, and a copy of the proposed by-law, is available by contacting the Clerk.

Dated August 21, 2024.

Dawn Newhook
Clerk/Deputy CAO
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
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E: dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca

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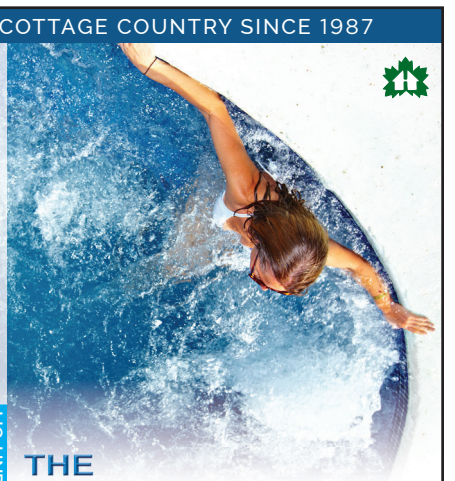

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The journey of masonry in Haliburton County

In this second article I want to talk about the journey that Masonry has travelled from 1896 when it first started to flourish in the County.

In the 1880's, the County was very young as communities began to be developed. Many of the men were masons when they arrived here and settled. The closest Masonic Lodge was located in Fenelon Falls. Attending lodge meetings took true dedication as it was a difficult journey over crude gravel roads.

As a result in 1896, a group of masons, seven to be exact, (mostly from the Minden and Haliburton area) approached the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario with a petition to create a new lodge in Minden which would serve the whole region. This petition was granted and in August, 1896, a new lodge known as Algonquin Lodge U.D. was constituted in Minden with Benjamin Freer, the local school inspector as the master of the lodge.

Two rooms located above Donald Hartle's General Store(located on the corner of Water Street and the Bobcaygeon Road) were rented from Donald who was one of the original members of the lodge at a cost of $40 per year. It doesn't sound like much money but when you consider that lodge dues were 25 cents per meeting, it was a huge expense every year.

Within the year, the lodge name was changed to Arcadia Lodge #440. The number attached to the name was in reference to the number of lodges that existed at that time within Ontario.

The lodge grew rapidly with new applications and new brethren joining the lodge every month. The men who joined the lodge came from all walks of life – farmers, school teachers, lawyers, bankers, policemen, hotel keepers, church ministers, newspaper editors, and business people. Practically every man in the town and surrounding area were members of the lodge. Brethren also came from Kinmount and Haliburton areas and beyond

The two rooms above the store became home to the lodge for several years. By the mid twenties, it was becoming evident that the lodge had outgrown the space and a new home was needed.

During this time and due to the growth of our lodge, two new lodges were constituted. In 1901, a motion was passed granting dispensation for a new lodge to be created in Kinmount and would be known as the Somerville Lodge. Again in 1903, another motion was passed to grant dispensation to create a new lodge in Haliburton and would be known as North Entrance Lodge. The first master of the Haliburton lodge was Dr. William Giles who had been the first person initiated into Arcadia Lodge in the fall of 1897. Masonry had now spread its wings throughout the region.

In 1928 the Arcadia Lodge acquired land at the east end of Main Street where the Fire Station was located. During the year a two-story building was erected with the lodge room located in the upper story.

In 1929, the lodge moved into their new home. The building is still standing and today, it is where the Gravity Coffee House is located. In the attached photo which was taken in 1929 at the first meeting in the new building, there were between 90 and 100 brethren present.

In 1947 the lodge decided to sell and move to its present location. Bro. Ed Harding, owner of the Rockville, approached the lodge wishing to acquire some land from them to expand his business. The end result was that he finally offered to buy the building for a price of $6000. At the same time, St. Paul's Anglican Church who owned the building (which was used as their Parish Hall) across from the United Church was wanting to find something closer to the church. As some of their members were also masons, negotiations begun. A vote was taken in the lodge to sell to Bro. Harding and buy the church building. The motion was passed with 22 in favour and 17 against indicating many were against the whole idea. However, the lodge proceeded in selling the building and buying the other building from the church for a price of $5000.

The new lodge was dedicated in Nov. of 1948 with several members of Grand Lodge present. The evening ended with a banquet held in the Town Hall (location of County Building)

By 2013, it was becoming evident that the lodge required a new foundation. At the same time it came to the attention of the brethren that the Food Bank was needing a permanent home. Always being community minded, the decision was made to join forces with them and pool our resources to create a new building.

The end result was a new building which today houses the Community Kitchen, Food Bank and Arcadia Lodge.

RWB Gareth Kellett, Distict Historian

Submitted

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9	2	8	5	3	6	1	4	7
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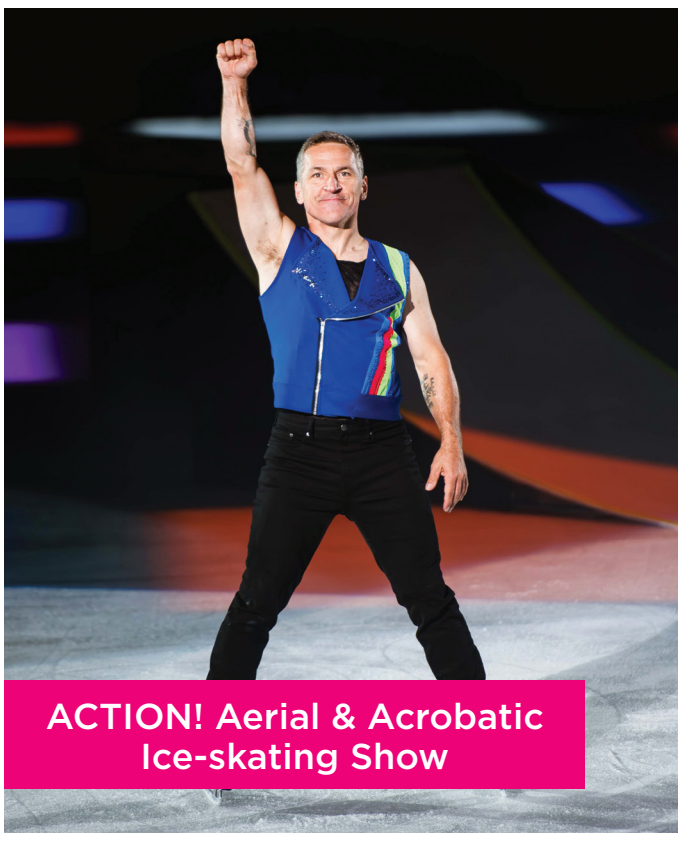
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Dawn Mugford-Guay,
Human Resources Coordinator
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Dawn Mugford-Guay,
Human Resources Coordinator
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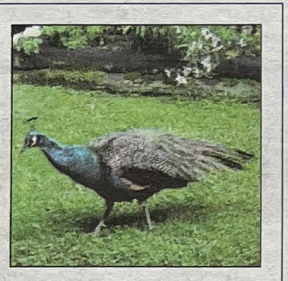

A what? A peacock?

A peacock has been spotted in a backyard in Minden

5

Jenn Watt Times staff
Naiomi Bainbridge taps out a beat by the Gull River at the It Takes a Community fundraiser Saturday morning. See story and more photos on page 14.

Tourism boon predicted

Chad Ingram
Staff reporter

Haliburton County's economic development director says the province's new regional tourism organizations (RTOs) program should prove a boon for the county.

Bob Smith, along with county tourism and marketing coordinator Amy Brohm, attended a meeting of the transition board for RTO 11, of which the county is part, on July 14 and 15.

Facilitated by the Queen's University Executive Decision Centre, the meeting brought together representatives from the eight regions that comprise RTO 11 and was a chance to talk about what the new organization would look like and how it would go about promoting the area, which stretches east from the county towards Ottawa.

"Going in, you didn't know what to expect," Smith said in a phone interview earlier this week. "Is Haliburton County going to be forgotten?"

Once discussions began, it was clear that the county's interests were not going to be sidelined in any way, he said.

Discussions, which, along with county staff, included reps from the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association, the Bancroft and Area Chamber of Commerce, Comfort Country Tourism, Lanark County Tourism, Land O' Lakes Tourist Association, Rideau Heritage Route

see KEYSTONE page 18

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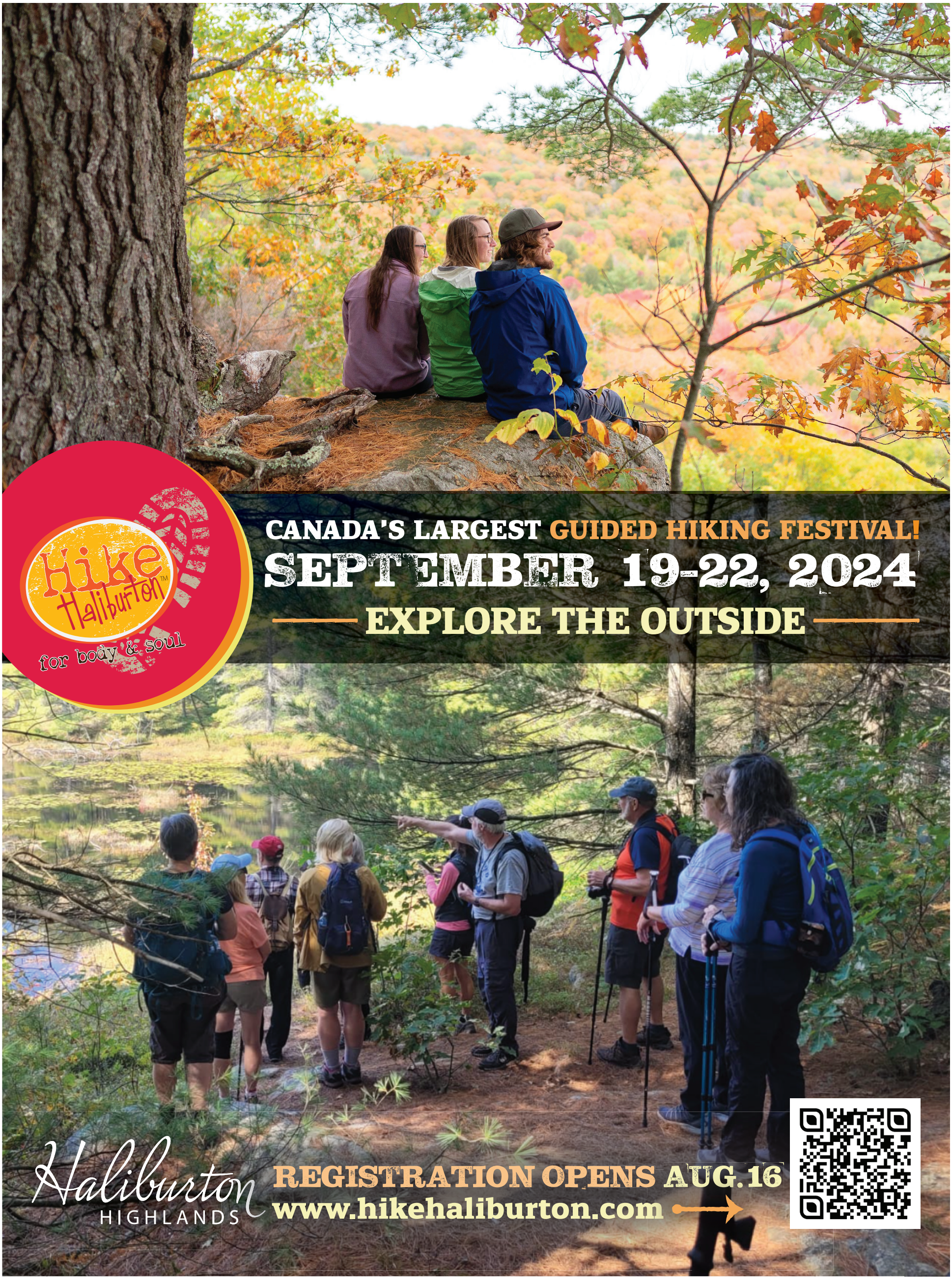
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